



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - October 24, 2002**

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers are providing additional drought relief in the ***southern Rockies***, but dry weather prevails elsewhere in the region. ***Northwestern*** winter wheat areas remain especially dry, leaving little soil moisture for proper crop establishment.
- ***On the Plains***, the latest in a series of storm systems is crossing the ***southern half of the region***, slowing fieldwork and adversely affecting open-boll cotton, but aiding pastures and winter wheat. Despite recent precipitation, pockets of dryness persist on the ***northern and central High Plains***, where very cold weather continues to limit winter wheat development.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, rain and snow showers across the ***upper Mississippi Valley*** are causing some additional corn and soybean harvest delays, while cold weather in the ***Ohio Valley and lower Great Lakes region*** is slowing winter wheat development.
- ***In the South***, dry weather is promoting a gradual return to summer crop harvesting in the ***Delta***, while showers continue to further ease long-term drought from ***Georgia to the Carolinas***.

**Outlook:** Showers will spread from the ***central and southern Plains*** into the ***Ohio Valley and Atlantic Coast States***, while a series of disturbances bring locally heavy rain to the ***western Gulf Coast region***. Meanwhile, a high-pressure system will provide cold, dry weather across the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***, although scattered snow showers are possible in the ***upper Great Lakes region***. In the ***West***, dry conditions will prevail in the ***Great Basin and Pacific Northwest***, while a series of disturbances will bring showers to the ***Four Corners Region***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 29 - November 2 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***eastern Gulf Coast region, Atlantic Coast States, and High Plains***, while below-normal precipitation is forecast across the ***interior Northwest*** and much of the ***Midwest***. Below-normal temperatures are expected across nearly the entire U.S., excluding the ***West Coast*** and ***Florida***.

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